

12<sup>th</sup> grade winning essay  
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Everyone knows that schooling is a necessary commodity if there is any hope to make good money or to have the luxuries that Americans want, but even if you have fun learning and enjoy the time spent at school marinating your mind in books and education, why not go out and make fishing one of your endeavors, and marinate some freshly caught salmon instead. Fishing is a luxury that most people take for granted, but is greatly recognized by a small group in the population who like to spend their time outdoors. That is because, when you are out fishing, or just outdoors, you get a chance to relax, to clear your mind and to soak yourself in the beauty and crispness of nature.

Most people in America work long hours and most have stressful jobs. As the country's economy changes, they are required to work longer, harder hours and in some cases, a full and part time job. Students spend eight hours a day in school, and most enjoy it and make the most of it, but many also go home to sit and vegetate on a couch and stare off into the television. If people take more time to get out and enjoy the wondrous environment that God has allowed us they would be more relaxed, energized and renewed as they journey back to the real world. A good day at work or school is naught in contrast with being out at a lake, or in a mountain stream, and to feel the authenticity and boundless beauty of nature when it is at its best. Even if you don't catch anything you will still find yourself relaxed and rejuvenated in mind and spirit while creating fabulous memories that will never leave you.

We see commercials for fishing on television that say, "Take me fishing..." for one reason or another, but the points that they state are very factual and should be honored. As you go fishing, with any person, you acquire the chance to bond with that person and the memories created are lasting compared to going to a movie or sitting in a car driving aimlessly about. Families could drastically amplify the amount of love and respect for one another when taking the time to get out and spend a few hours with each other fishing. Paternal units, who work many hours without time given to the children, would have an increase in the time spent with their families to cultivate lasting relationships and to build positive memories, dissimilar to tense relationships without trust and reliability, and memories of long nights spent alone.

Picture this, you are sitting in a chair on a lake shore or in a boat somewhere, you look around to observe the beautiful, luscious green mountain side and bask in the crisp, clean, cool mountain air. Alternately, you could be staring at a vast ocean of sand or water, where you get to soak in some rays and take in the splendor of the sunset against the horizon. Or as you stand in the river holding your rod, you survey the movement of the birds and bugs, just after a hatch, as they dart and dodge, feed and fly. While reading the river and following the movement of your fly and rod, you notice the incredible beauty of the river and wildlife that subsists and permeates from that river. Why would you want to be sitting in a classroom listening to a lecture, no matter how entertaining, still subconsciously worried about the rest of your day's activities, while you could be fishing? You are totally relaxed without worries because the size of your catch still won't

amount to anything compared to the effects that nature has had on you as you were visiting.

Fishing will have life-long effects on you just as a job and school will, but the effects of fishing will be more positive over-all, because you get a chance to see sights and have healthier bonding experiences, further than the average Joe's do as they sit in a cubical in some grand office building. It won't matter if you are in Hawaii, the Gulf of Mexico or a river in Alaska during the heat of salmon spawning season, you will still take some treasure, tangible or not, home with you. You will go home a new and improved person having been far more productive than if you had spent the day in school or at work. This is why, bad days fishing, are better than a day at work or school no matter how good of a day it may be.